

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Uranium Mines at Pribram

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1. The uranium mines in Pribram are operated in three daily shifts, including Sundays. The majority of the miners are German prisoners of war, and recently political prisoners have been sent to the mines. Most of the leading technical employees are Russians, with Chief Engineer Stepanov at the head. His deputy is a Czech engineer named Polak.
2. The POWs are guarded at all times by an SNB unit commanded by Lt. Frantisek Laura, who exerts pressure on the members of his unit and on the POWs in order to increase the output of the mines. Laura is about 38 years old; he is tall and stout and is a typical Russian; his eyes are blue and he is bald. For his efforts in forcing more work from the miners Laura receives a special bonus, and with the help of M. Placity, the Security Officer, who is an ardent and convinced Communist, the yield in the mines has been increased considerably in the past months (100 to 150 per cent). The ore is shipped by truck to Jachymov several times weekly, and from there it is transported to the USSR.
3. SNB Sgt. Josef Bruner, the Political Officer, and SNB Sgt. Josef Sichel, in conjunction with the Communist organization in the SNB unit, support the activities of Laura and Placity. SNB Sgt. Jan Hajic, who is deputy to the commander and a trusted Communist, assigns duties in the SNB unit and controls the guards.
4. This SNB unit is part of special SNB Unit No. 9610, called "Jestrab" (Hawk), at Jachymov. Unit 9610 is commanded by 1st Lt. Hromadka, who was a former Political Officer at Tabor. His deputy is Staff Capt. Chleboun, who was originally commander of this unit, but Hromadka was assigned to his post because Chleboun was not an indoctrinated member of the Communist Party.
5. Attached is a sketch showing location of mines and adjacent buildings.

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